

# **EPA REGION III**

## **◁Office of Public Affairs**

### **◁Early Bird Headlines**

**Monday, August 27, 2012**

### **\*\*\* MORNING HOT LIST \*\*\***

#### **Long fight over fracking still divides Pa. town**

**PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER** DIMOCK, Pa. - More than three years after residents in this Susquehanna County town complained that Marcellus Shale natural gas development polluted their private water wells, the lawsuits are getting settled, the activists are going away, and gas drilling is set to resume. But the battle scars are unhealed in Dimock, whose name has become synonymous with hydraulic fracturing - fracking. The rush to drill struck a deep reservoir of hostility. Residents who support or oppose shale-gas development complain that their neighbors are looking for a quick payday, either from gas-drilling royalties or a legal settlement. They exchange snippy comments at the post office and glares at the grocery. They hold counterdemonstrations to each other's rallies, hoisting glasses of dirty water or clean water, depending upon their point of view. The pettiness was documented in court papers. One family who cooperated with the gas company to fix their water supply erected a tarp to block out their neighbors, who had sued the drillers and accused their neighbors of selling out. The family that sued posted signs around its modest ranch house: "For Sale: \$5,000,000." "It's really made some bitter enemies," said James C. Grimsley, 70, a retired New York City plumber who moved here nine years ago with his wife. He favors gas development, and expresses his sentiments on a sign nailed to his house on the main highway through Dimock: "Drill baby drill."

#### **Emotions run high in gas drilling debate**

**TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW** TIOGA COUNTY, N.Y. - New York may be weeks or even days away from seeing the first drilling permits allowing hydraulic fracturing, according to a story reported by CBS Evening News last Sunday that sent shockwaves through the Southern Tier's supporters and opponents of fracking. According to the report, a decision is expected after Labor Day, also recognizing that New York will have the strictest regulations in the nation should fracking be allowed. In another blow to opponents of fracking, the controversial town of Dimock, Pa. has been in the news as well. First, water samples in Dimock were found to be safe to drink by the Environmental Protection Agency on July 25 after months of testing. This week news came that Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation has been cleared to resume drilling at existing wells in Dimock, having addressed the problem.

#### **Editorial: Fix holes in gas reporting**

**SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE** Accurate publicly reported data about the burgeoning Marcellus Shale

natural gas industry are crucial for the sake of public transparency and for the industry itself. Financial markets and energy companies use the information to make long-range decisions worth many billions of dollars. Since the number of wells being drilled and amount of gas being extracted also indicates the amounts of pollution being produced by the industry, accurate data are central to environmental protection. Yet the Department of Environmental Protection this month posted gas production data that were exponentially incorrect, and then shrugged its shoulders.

## **Commissioners ask state to slow septic regulations**

**SO MARYLAND ONLINE NEWS** Policy is consistent with federal goals, Md. agency says. The St. Mary's County commissioners in June submitted plans to reduce levels of nitrogen entering surrounding waters to meet the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, but said they are not supporting aspects of the plan. In addition, all five of the county commissioners signed an Aug. 10 letter to Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) expressing concerns over upgrading septic systems in St. Mary's as proposed by a new state regulation. The proposal calls for all new construction served by septic systems to use the "best available technology" to reduce nitrogen loads. Nitrogen in the Chesapeake and its tributaries feeds unnatural algae blooms that decay and rob the water of oxygen, killing aquatic life.

## **EPA chief sees Ben Jerrys pollution controls**

**FUEL FIX**WATERBURY, Vt. — The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday toured the Ben & Jerry's ice cream plant in Waterbury, where she heard about company businesses practices that place emphasis on its social mission and its environmentally sound production methods. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson got a tour of the plant's production area and saw its waste recycling and reclamation practices, which reduce the amount of water the plant needs to get from the local water system and the amount that's fed into the Waterbury sewage treatment system. On Thursday, the first day of her two-day visit to Vermont, Jackson toured a solar power installation at the Vermont National Guard base in South Burlington. "I think it's important for Americans to remember, the clean economy, the green energy economy, whatever you want to talk about is more than just seeing really big installations of wind farms or solar panels," Jackson said Friday after her Ben & Jerry's tour. "It's also thinking about sustainability throughout a supply chain, like they do here with their value sourcing. It's thinking about how to educate customers about where their food comes from and how to ensure it's safe." What Ben & Jerry's is doing is something that other companies can do if they are determined to do so.

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# **PENNSYLVANIA**

## **PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**

**Long fight over fracking still divides Pa. town** M DIMOCK, Pa. - More than three years after residents in this Susquehanna County town complained that Marcellus Shale natural gas development polluted their private water wells, the lawsuits are getting settled, the activists are going away, and gas drilling is set to resume. But the battle scars are unhealed in Dimock, whose name has become synonymous with hydraulic fracturing - fracking. The rush to drill struck a deep reservoir of hostility. Residents who support or oppose shale-gas development complain that their neighbors are looking for a quick payday, either from gas-drilling royalties or a legal settlement. They exchange snippy comments at the post office and glares at the grocery. They hold counterdemonstrations to each other's rallies, hoisting glasses of dirty water or clean water, depending upon their point of view. The pettiness was documented in court papers. One family who cooperated with the gas company to fix their water supply erected a tarp to block out their neighbors, who had sued the drillers and accused their neighbors of selling out. The family that sued posted signs around its modest ranch house: "For Sale: \$5,000,000." "It's really made some bitter

enemies," said James C. Grimsley, 70, a retired New York City plumber who moved here nine years ago with his wife. He favors gas development, and expresses his sentiments on a sign nailed to his house on the main highway through Dimock: "Drill baby drill."

Where are the Delaware River basin's once-legendary shad? Earlier this year, digital equipment at the Black Rock dam in Phoenixville recorded a momentous occurrence: three American shad adults swimming by, presumably headed up the Schuylkill to spawn. They had made it past five dams - one that had been breached and four with fish ladders installed in recent years. "It's been almost 200 years since an adult American shad has been that far up," said Philadelphia Water Department biologist Joe Perillo. The find was a bright spot in what has turned out to be a stubbornly elusive goal in the Delaware River basin - the restoration of American shad. Some hopeful signs abound, but the once-legendary fish still awaits a comeback

Corbett goes where he feels at home — on the river SHAWNEE-ON-DELAWARE - With the fog still thick over the Delaware River, Gov. Corbett, joined by about a dozen state officials, all in kayaks, pushed off from the Pennsylvania side Friday morning for a 10-mile float downriver. It was Day Two of Corbett's 23-mile paddle along the Delaware, meant to promote tourism and highlight Pennsylvania's natural resources. ... Friday's picture-perfect morning for paddling stood in contrast to Corbett's first day out, which was more like George Washington's hazard-filled Delaware crossing. On Thursday the governor had to fend off a peaceful but vocal water assault by sign-waving, anti-gas-drilling activists and got soaked when his kayak tipped over as he tried to reenter the water after portaging a shallow section of the river.

### **PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

Drought tests farmer's strategies for dealing with extreme conditions Portraits of the Drought: Second in an occasional series CASH, Ark. -- Joe Christian was riding 10 feet above one of his fields, using computer controls to direct his combine to cut the 75 acres of rice planted amid a series of levees. Despite this year's drought, the levees enabled Mr. Christian to keep his fields flooded with water from the Cash River that runs through his property and, when the river got low, with well water pulled up from 100 feet below.

Blowin' in the wind: An appeals court stymies the cause of clean air

Some emissions of air pollutants affect air quality in the states where the pollutants are emitted. Some emissions of air pollutants travel across state boundaries and affect air quality in downward states." Yes, they do, as we know to our sorrow in Pennsylvania. But after stating that simple truth at the beginning of his opinion issued Tuesday, Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., found his clarity in the complication of the law -- what he called the "complex regulatory challenge" facing the Environmental Protection Agency. ... The court ruling, decided by a 2-1 majority, was as surprising as it was dismaying. In her vigorous, even angry, dissent, Judge Judith W. Rogers showed why the decision came as a shock to some: "To vacate the Transport Rule, the court disregards limits Congress placed on its jurisdiction, the plain text of the Clean Air Act ... and this court's settled precedent interpreting the same statutory provisions at issue today. Any one of these obstacles should have given the court pause; none did.

Sinking gas prices put Hopewell's fortunes on hold

In recent years, Hopewell Township in Washington County has been a center for Marcellus Shale drilling, but activity is slowing.

Old Jeannette glass plant site of 2 fires

No one was hurt in a fire Sunday morning at the site of the former Jeannette Glass Factory in Jeannette. The old plant has been the focus of attention recently, as officials of the state Department of Environmental Protection recently obtained a search warrant to take samples involving waste on the site. The glass plant closed in 1983.

### **PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW**

### New owners invest in pollution turnaround at Shenango coke plant

Karen Grzywinski has kept a close eye on pollution coming from the Shenango Inc. coke plant on Neville Island since the mid-1990s after moving to Ben Avon. Rarely did she like what she saw or smelled. "It was very disruptive to our day-to-day living with all the emissions and odors in the area," Grzywinski said. She has since moved to Ohio Township, but Grzywinski continues to monitor harmful smoke and soot from the plant through a program administered by local environmental group GASP — Group Against Smog and Pollution. Until a couple of years ago, any concerns and complaints about the pollution fell on deaf ears at the plant, she said. But with a recent change in ownership, things seem to be improving.

Mayor to tout 'Burgh at White House event Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl plans to make a quick pitch about Pittsburgh's economic resilience at a White House forum Monday. Ravenstahl is one of eight government and nonprofit officials from Houston, San Diego, New York and elsewhere invited to speak at the Forum on Urban Innovation in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. He'll have to keep it short. The agenda allots speakers five minutes for their presentations before presidential advisers and officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies.

### **WILKES-BARRE CITIZENS' VOICE**

Gas drilling record becomes focus of Corbett's kayak tour GREENE TWP. - Gov. Tom Corbett doesn't understand why some try to characterize him and his administration as being bad for the state's environment. An avid kayaker, one of the first things he wanted to do after his back operation was to get back in a Pennsylvania river. Visiting Promised Land State Park on Thursday, he recalled his first visit, as a preschooler, where he learned the wonder of being in the woods. Yet, when he paddled down the Delaware from Darbytown to the Zane Grey Museum with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Rick Allan, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer and Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director John Arway, environmental groups took to the water too, led by the Delaware

### **SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE**

Editorial: Fix holes in gas reporting Accurate publicly reported data about the burgeoning Marcellus Shale natural gas industry are crucial for the sake of public transparency and for the industry itself. Financial markets and energy companies use the information to make long-range decisions worth many billions of dollars. Since the number of wells being drilled and amount of gas being extracted also indicates the amounts of pollution being produced by the industry, accurate data are central to environmental protection. Yet the Department of Environmental Protection this month posted gas production data that were exponentially incorrect, and then shrugged its shoulders.

### **TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW**

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### **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pa.: Okla. energy firm's data filled with errors

PITTSBURGH — The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection says natural gas drilling company Chesapeake Energy last week filed an important Marcellus Shale production report containing so many errors a state database rejected it. DEP spokesman Kevin Sunday said last week a previous statement by Oklahoma City-

based Chesapeake Energy Corp. that suggested state databases were the problem wasn't entirely accurate and omitted important points. "DEP's production database functioned exactly as designed by rejecting reports that contain obvious data entry errors," Sunday said. For example, Chesapeake attempted to report production information on wells where the drilling start date wasn't listed; attempted to report more producing days than the number of days in the reporting period; and attempted to report drilled wells as wells that were not drilled, Sunday said.

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## DELAWARE

### **CAPE GAZETTE**

State, federal officials urge EPA to reduce ethanol requirement With prolonged drought reducing corn yields nationwide, state and federal officials are urging the Environmental Protection Agency to relax requirements that force farmers to sell corn for ethanol. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports corn production could fall 13 percent this year. In Delaware, many farmers are mowing down corn that wasn't irrigated because it will not produce a crop this year. The loss of corn and soybeans is raising the price of feed for poultry growers who are struggling to meet the higher cost of feed. The EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard program requires a specified amount of American corn be used for ethanol production, but the regulations provide flexibility for periods of drought or other prolonged hardships that reduce corn yield.

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Delaware Court Rules Plant Doesn't Need Special Permit **GEORGETOWN**, Del. (AP) - The Delaware Supreme Court has ruled that a proposed sewer plant doesn't need a special permit, clearing the way for it. The state's highest court ruled on Aug. 17 that Tidewater Environmental Services Inc.'s proposed Wanendale plant is neither a manufacturing facility nor a heavy industry site as defined by the Coastal Zone Act. It would produce treated water that could be sprayed on farm fields.

### **DELMARVANOW.COM**

Offshore wind test project planned in Delaware **NEWARK**, Del. --

There's a new proposal to build wind turbines off the coast of Delaware, albeit one much smaller than the ambitious and now-defunct Bluewater Wind contract. Researchers at the University of Delaware, together with the National Renewable Energy Lab in Colorado, are proposing a small test project in the Atlantic Ocean, off an unspecified point on the Delaware coast. They are seeking federal funding from an offshore wind program offered by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Community repairs heron habitat in Bethany Beach **BETHANY BEACH** -- Kayaking through Lake Bethany, Eric Buehl observed an eroding shoreline and trees leaning over. Then, he spotted about 10 great blue heron nests. Buehl, a habitat coordinator for the Center for the Inland Bays, knew he needed to step in.

Sussex wastewater utility company plans to move ahead on plant **REHOBOTH BEACH** -- A wastewater utility company said it's still committed to constructing a 1.45 million gallon per day sewer plant in Sussex County after a Delaware Supreme Court cleared the way for the plant to be built without a special permit. The court ruled that Tidewater Environmental Services Inc.'s proposed Wanendale plant is neither a manufacturing facility or a heavy industry site as defined by the Coastal Zone Act, the Delaware law controlling pollution near the Atlantic Ocean. State regulators had treated it as a proposed manufacturing plant, producing treated water that could be sprayed on farm fields, and awarded it a permit in July 2010.

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## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### ***WASHINGTON POST***

Letter: Why we shouldn't blow off the tax credit for wind energy In the Aug. 17 editorial "Political energy," The Post argued that it's a good idea to replace coal plants with inexpensive natural gas, which would rapidly cut greenhouse-gas emissions. But The Post also called for ending the production tax credit for wind, which also helps cut carbon emissions. Although the production credit costs some tax revenue in the short term, it's worth it to nourish the fledgling wind industry. Obtaining energy from wind is a significant way to improve air quality and the health of our citizens as well as to combat global warming. Expanding wind energy is important because, for example, natural gas might not always be so cheap, and it has its own greenhouse-gas and other environmental problems associated with fracking.

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## WEST VIRGINIA

### ***CHARLESTON GAZETTE***

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## MARYLAND

### ***BALTIMORE SUN***

Delicate species: The environmental win-win Ecotone restores forests and wetlands, helping developers comply with the law. The message arrived last month with something like the urgency of a gold strike: Native brook trout, lots of them, discovered in the twin ditch creeks of an old farm in Hereford, in northern Baltimore County. Environmental scientists get pretty excited about this sort of thing. They found brown trout, too, and other smaller fish that a kid splashing around in summer might call minnows: sculpins, black-nosed dace and rosy-sided dace. Signs of life, to be sure, but more than that — signs of a delicate species' survival in a stream degraded for decades by the practices of men trying to earn a living off the land.

Letter: Is fracking coming to Maryland? Proponents of fracking assured New York crowds at a recent rally that they won't be drilling where they're not wanted. What they really meant is where nobody will see them. Just look at what they did in Ohio and Pennsylvania. I can't imagine they were welcomed with open arm

### ***SALISBURY DAILY TIMES***

Opposition, recession cripple MAPP project

RIVERTON -- Nearly four years ago, chances looked good that Pepco Holdings Inc. would sail through regulatory channels to build a \$1.2 billion transmission line stretching across the Chesapeake Bay and much of Delmarva. "When their proposal first came to us, it really felt like it was a done deal," said Amy Owsley, deputy

director of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, one of more than three dozen organizations that opposed the project. "You kind of feel like a David going up against a Goliath."

Farmers eligible for energy grantsANNAPOLIS -- Farmers throughout the Shore looking to upgrade the energy efficiency of their farms are now eligible for grants from \$25,000 -\$200,000. The Maryland Energy Administration has announced an agricultural energy efficiency program aimed at covering up to 75 percent of the cost associated with increasing insulation, ventilation, irrigation or HVAC upgrades. The grant was named in honor of the late Kathleen Mathias, who served the citizens of Ocean City and Maryland for much of her life.

## **SO MARYLAND ONLINE NEWS**

Commissioners ask state to slow *septic* regulations

Policy is consistent with federal goals, Md. agency says. The St. Mary's County commissioners in June submitted plans to reduce levels of nitrogen entering surrounding waters to meet the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, but said they are not supporting aspects of the plan. In addition, all five of the county commissioners signed an Aug. 10 letter to Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) expressing concerns over upgrading septic systems in St. Mary's as proposed by a new state regulation. The proposal calls for all new construction served by septic systems to use the "best available technology" to reduce nitrogen loads. Nitrogen in the Chesapeake and its tributaries feeds unnatural algae blooms that decay and rob the water of oxygen, killing aquatic life.

Plum Point Middle water tests positive for bacteriaDrinking water at Plum Point Middle School has been shut down after it tested positive for bacteria, according to an email sent Friday morning by the school's principal, Zach Seawell. "Although not necessary, we are taking precautionary measures by shutting down all drinking fountains, setting up water stations on each level, and providing hand sanitizer," Seawell's email said, explaining that the initial water test was routine. The email said students will be allowed to carry water bottles from home and all bathrooms are fully functional and can be used by staff and students. Seawell also stated in the email that the Calvert County Health Department was aware of the school's actions and the water system will be treated according to the recommendations of Maryland Department of the Environment and the Calvert County Health Department.

## **CECIL WHIG**

Cleanup, repair continues after Port tanker explosionCleanup continued in Port Deposit on Sunday in the aftermath of a gasoline tanker explosion that killed a Windsor Mill man Friday night and sent a fireball into the sky that could be seen for miles. Crews from Delmarva Power, Verizon, Bay Broadband and Norfolk Southern Railroad worked throughout the weekend to make repairs to lines and equipment damaged by the intense heat of the fire, which also scorched the siding of a nearby vacant home and melted two portable toilets in the park. Norfolk Southern crews spent Saturday replacing damaged railroad ties. The rail company that carries freight through Port Deposit also had fire damage to a control box and signal pole. State Highway Administration officials directed traffic past the accident site, which was closed to one-lane while crews worked to restore utilities.

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# **VIRGINIA**

## **VIRGINIAN-PILOT**

Editorial: Hurting Virginia's clean air efforts

Air pollution doesn't stop at state borders. Neither does political spotlight-grabbing. Last week, a divided federal appeals court struck down an Environmental Protection Agency rule designed to limit the kind of particulate matter that can make it hard to breathe in Hampton Roads during the summer. The 2-1 decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit struck down EPA efforts to force states to do something about the pollution they send downwind. Virginia and other East Coast states are the biggest victims. They have to live with the pollution - mainly sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide - generated by inland coal-fired power plants.

Editorial Op-Ed: At the core of our energy needs

Uranium mining, aside from the damage it does to the environment, has another downside: The fuel supports an old and dirty energy-generation technology that has time and again proven terrible for the planet and the people on it. If nuclear power is better than the primary alternative - coal - it's only because coal creates so much havoc itself. When mined and burned, coal fouls the land and water and air. It sickens children and adults and is a prime agent of global warming. For all those reasons, mankind has been searching for generations for some way to make electricity without splitting atoms or burning rocks. Solar is getting cheaper, but it still produces only when the sun shines. Electricity storage remains an unsolved problem. Nevertheless, solar still shows promise.

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Groundbreaking set for leg of Va. urban greenway

Family sues over mold in Va. military housing

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# MISCELLANEOUS

## **RIGZONE**

Marcellus Pad Liner Recycling Program Underway

A new business partnership to collect and recycle plastic well pad liners from Marcellus shale gas drilling sites launched last month. The first of its kind recycling venture will allow millions of pounds of marketable plastic to be reclaimed, slow the consumption of valuable landfill space, and reduce truck traffic around drilling sites, according to officials with the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (RMC) and companies involved in the venture. RMC formed the venture by bringing together Orwigsburg, Penn.-based WellSpring Environmental services and Portland, Penn.-based Ultra-Poly Corporation. Both companies are members of RMC's Center for Excellence, a network of recycled material processors. The Marcellus shale gas drilling boom in Pennsylvania has created a need for this type of recycling program, as the plastic liners are difficult to recycle and proper management is required for successful recycling to take place.

## **FUEL FIX**

EPA chief sees Ben Jerry's pollution controls WATERBURY, Vt. — The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday toured the Ben & Jerry's ice cream plant in Waterbury, where she heard about company business practices that place emphasis on its social mission and its environmentally sound production methods. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson got a tour of the plant's production area and saw its waste recycling and reclamation practices, which reduce the amount of water the plant needs to get from the local water system and the amount that's fed into the Waterbury sewage treatment system. On Thursday, the first day of her two-day visit to Vermont, Jackson toured a solar power installation at the Vermont National Guard base in South Burlington. "I think it's important for Americans to remember, the clean economy, the green energy economy, whatever you want



to talk about is more than just seeing really big installations of wind farms or solar panels,” Jackson said Friday after her Ben & Jerry’s tour. “It’s also thinking about sustainability throughout a supply chain, like they do here with their value sourcing. It’s thinking about how to educate customers about where their food comes from and how to ensure it’s safe.” What Ben & Jerry’s is doing is something that other companies can do if they are determined to do so.

### ***EPOCH TIMES***

Bloomberg Donates \$6 Million to Develop Safe *Fracking* NEW YORK—The fate of hydraulic fracturing or fracking, in New York state has yet to be decided, but the controversial method for extracting natural gas has a new supporter—Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg Philanthropies, which is supported by the mayor both through his Bloomberg Family Foundation and his personal money, awarded a three-year, \$6 million grant to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Friday.